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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Erdogan to Meet Bush June 8 - Vatan  
Bush Conquers Georgia - Aksam  
Bush Greeted Like a Rock Star in Georgia - Hurriyet  
150,000 Georgians Greet Bush Waving US Flags - Vatan  
Bush Calls for Continuation of 'Democratic Revolutions' -  
Milliyet  
EU Expansion Chief Rehn to Visit Cyprus - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Bush Finally Grants Appointment to Erdogan - Radikal  
Bush-Erdogan Summit on June 8 - Zaman  
Georgians Rally for 'Revolutionary' Bush - Zaman  
US President in the Caucasus - Cumhuriyet  
Rafsanjani to Seek Iran Presidency - Radikal  
US Warns Iran Against Relaunching Nuclear Activities - Yeni  
Safak  
US 'Matador Operation' on Iraq's Syria Border - Cumhuriyet  
US Military Can't Find New Recruits - Yeni Safak  
Arab-Latin Summit to Say 'No' to US Hegemony - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Bush-Erdogan to Meet June 8: Prime Minister Recep Tayyip  
Erdogan is expected to meet with US President George W. Bush  
on 8 June in Washington, papers report. Erdogan is  
scheduled to visit Washington to attend a session of the  
American Turkish Council from June 5-7. Erdogan is to be  
accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, who will be  
meeting Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The Gul-Rice  
meeting is also scheduled for June 8, according to reports.

Opposition CHP Demands Clarification on Incirlik Decree:  
Opposition CHP's deputy chairman Onur Oymen said that  
despite an earlier statement by Foreign Minister Gul ruling  
out the transfer of military personnel through Incirlik  
Airbase, the April 18 cabinet decree provides for US access  
to Turkish bases for logistical support operations,  
'including the transfer of military equipment and  
personnel,' "Cumhuriyet" reports. The decree does not  
mention Incirlik, Oymen noted, and he questioned whether  
there was a separate agreement regarding use of the airbase.  
'The decree includes the transfer of personnel, and those  
personnel are surely not gardeners or cooks,' Oymen said.  
Oymen demanded an explanation from the government on the  
issue. "Cumhuriyet" also reports that several leading  
Turkish NGOs asked the AK Party government at a press  
conference in Istanbul yesterday to reveal the 'secret'  
cabinet decree on the use of Incirlik Airbase.

Papadopoulos Said Erdogan 'Exaggerated' Conversation in  
Moscow: Cyprus President Papadopoulos said that PM Erdogan  
had 'exaggerated' the contents of a conversation the two men  
held with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in Moscow earlier  
this week. Papadopoulos reportedly told the media that the  
brief conversation did not result in an agreement to restart  
Cyprus negotiations as Erdogan had implied.

Turkey's NSC Chief to Visit Israel: Turkish National  
Security Council (NSC) Secretary General Yigit Alpogun is to  
visit Israel May 17-19 as the guest of Israeli National  
Security Council chief Giora Eliant, Turkish papers report.  
Alpogun will discuss with the Israelis regional issues and  
increased sharing of intelligence on terrorist  
organizations. Alpogun will also address some Israeli think-  
tanks during his visit. Reports claim that Alpogun will  
visit the United States for a meeting with newly appointed  
NSC Chairman Stephen Hadley following his trip Tel Aviv.

Jafari to Visit Turkey: Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jafari  
will be in Ankara May 19 on a two-day official visit, papers  
report. During his stay in Ankara, Jafari will reportedly

meet with President s Sezer, PM Erdogan, and FM Gul to discuss recent developments in Iraq, particularly the Kirkuk issue and the drafting of the new Iraqi constitution.

Arinc Due in US: Turkish Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc will be visiting the United States at the end of May at the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives Dennis Hastert, the official Anatolian News Agency (AA) reported on Tuesday.

Afghans Protest US for Koran Desecration: Afghan protesters, infuriated by a "Newsweek" report that US interrogators in Guantanamo Bay had desecrated the Koran, set fire to the governor's office in Jalalabad on Wednesday, Turkish papers report based on international wires. "Newsweek" said that investigators probing abuses at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay had discovered that interrogators had placed pages of the Koran on toilet paper rolls. About 2,000 students protested the US in Jalalabad on Tuesday and demanded an apology.

US Military Postal Service Subject to Turkish Customs Declaration: The US military will now have to file customs declarations to receive their private mail, "Hurriyet" reports in a front-page story. The new practice has been implemented since March 9, and marks the termination of a protocol that had been signed between the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) and the US State Department on this issue 20 years ago. The report asserts that for the past 20 years, private parcels delivered to US soldiers in Turkey came through Istanbul Ataturk Airport without being checked at customs. US soldiers will pay no taxes on the delivery, and the mail will not be subject to inspection, according to the Istanbul Deputy Governor. But processing of the mail will now require notification to Turkish authorities about the content of the pouches coming in from abroad. "Hurriyet" quotes a US official in Istanbul as saying that there are military postal services at airports in many countries that receive mail sent to US troops on commercial flights.

ECHR to Announce Verdict on Ocalan May 12: The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) will deliver its final verdict in an appeal filed by PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan on Thursday. The ruling could lead to Ocalan's retrial in Turkey, where he is serving a life sentence. Ocalan was sentenced to death for treason, but his sentence was changed to life in prison on October 3, 2002 after Turkey scrapped capital punishment in a bid to ease its membership into the European Union. The Council of Europe has asked Turkey in a letter to change legislation that blocks the retrial of suspects, "Radikal" reports. The issue may be raised during Prime Minister Erdogan's May 15 visit to Warsaw, where he will attend a summit meeting of Council of Europe leaders.

AKP Lawmaker Resigns: Ismail Ericekli, a Cankiri parliamentary deputy from the ruling AK Party, resigned from his party on Tuesday and announced his intention to join the True Path Party (DYP). The breakdown of seats in the parliament following Ericekli's resignation is as follows: AKP 355, CHP 162, ANAP 10, DYP 7, SHP 5, HYP 1, Independent 18. Two seats remain vacant.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: VE Day

"After the Moscow Summit"  
Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative "Turkiye" (5/11): "The VE Day celebrations were marked by some very important messages from world leaders, including on the value of peace and human rights. Even President Bush's criticism about Russian democracy and Putin's harsh response did not harm the overall positive atmosphere. Yet the most important message in Bush's speech was about the 'Pax Americana,' which he explained at some length. The 'Pax Americana' refers to the process of democratization in Asia and North Africa. Bush expressed in a very determined way the US commitment on the democratization issue. This determination also stems from US desire to control oil supplies in those areas. But Washington should realize that democracy cannot be easily applied in every society. Recent developments in Egypt are just one recent example. Egypt is discussing the method for electing a parliamentary speaker. At US insistence, the single-candidate system is about to be changed. The Egyptian 'democratic' will now allow more than one candidate to run, but under one condition -- all candidates must come from the ruling party!"

"Imperial Conflict"  
Ergun Goze wrote in the conservative-sensational "Halka ve Oylara Tercuman" (5/11): "Presidents Bush and Putin engaged in a war of words during the 60th anniversary celebrations of VE Day. Bush criticized the Russians for occupying Europe after World War II. In return, Putin claimed that Russia had freed Europe from the Nazis. Bush continued urging Russia to become a democratic state. Putin questioned democracy in America by reminding Bush that he had to come to power through a court decision. Both sides

voiced their differences in an open manner. We need to thing about where Turkey fits in to this picture. Before WWI, Turkey was often depicted between a bear and a whale - the bear symbolizing Russia and the whale representing the West. Except for the fact that the West is now dominated by the United States rather than Europe, not much has really changed. Turkey's fate is the same as before, squeezed between the whale and the bear."

EDELMAN